

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: ADS DECLAS 10/23/74

TAGS: EAID, MT, IT

SUBJ: ITALIAN AID--PIONEER CORPS

REF: VALLETTA 1986

1. SUMMARY:IN STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT OCT. 22 PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF SAID EXPENSES IN SETTING UP AND TRAINING OF PIONEER CORPS BY OFFICERS OF ITALIAN ARMY TO BE BORNE BY GOI WHICH WILL ALSO PAY FOR PART OF EXPENSES INCURRED FOR PURCHASE EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS FOR CORPS. DELEGATION FROM ITALIAN MINFONAFF LED BY AMBASSADOR MARIO MONDELLO SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH GOM JULY 26. END SUMMARY

2.FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR POINTS JULY 26 AGREEMENT:

A. EXPENSES OF GROUP ITALIAN OFFICERS TO LEAD AND TRAIN PIONEER CORPS TO BE BORNE ENTIRELY BY GOI. OFFICERS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TRAIN MALTESE PERSONNEL TAKE OVER BY JULY 31, 1975.

B. AGREEMENT PART OF WIDER TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND TO BE CONSIDERED AS PRINCIPAL AND SPECIAL PROJECT FOR YEARS 1974/1975.

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C. MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT, TRANSPORT VEHICLES, INSTRUMENTS AND PART OF EXPENSES INCURRED IN PURCHASING PIONEER CORPS MEMBERS' UNIFORMS ESTIMATED TO COST APPROXIMATELY 1,050 MILLION ITALIAN LIRE (RATE OF EXCHANGE CURRENTLY 1,599.26 ITALIAN LIRE EQUAL ONE MALTA POUND). EXPENDITURES TO BE DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS: 35 MILLION ITALIAN LIRE FOR BOOTS AND SOCKS; 655 MILLION ITALIAN LIRE FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT; 100 MILLION ITALIAN LIRE FOR VEHICLES; AND 250 MILLION ITALIAN LIRE FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

D. OUT OF GLOBAL EXPENDITURE, GOI TO PAY 550 MILLION ITALIAN LIRE. GOM TO CONTRIBUTE 500 MILLION ITALIAN LIRE BUT NOT MORE THAN 300,000 MALTA POUNDS. REGARDING TELECOMMUNICATIONS, GOM IS COMMITTED PAY FOR USE OF LINES OUTSIDE MALTA AT RATE OF ABOUT 200 MILLION ITALIAN LIRE ANNUALLY.

E. EXPENDITURE FOR MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT TO BE SHARED EQUALLY. TRANSPORT OF EQUIPMENT AND ITALIAN OFFICERS TO BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT COST TO GOM THROUGH USE ITALIAN ARMY MEANS TRANSPORT.

F. IN ORDER KEEP EXPENSES AS LOW AS POSSIBLE GOI TO PUT AT DISPOSAL PIONEER CORPS ANOTHER QUANTITY CIVIL ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT WHICH MAY BE RETURNED TO ITALY AT END OF AGREEMENT ON JULY 31, 1975.

3. PRIME MINISTER ENDED STATEMENT BY THANKING GOI "FOR THE QUICK AND GENEROUS AID WHICH THEY ARE GIVING IN THIS SECTOR."

4. WHILE REFERENCES TO PIONEER CORPS AND CIVIL ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT FOR PROJECTS SUCH AS AIRPORT MODERNIZATION AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION ARE SELF EXPLANATORY, REFERENCES TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS APPARENTLY RELATE TO EXPANSION TELEPHONE CABLE FACILITIES BETWEEN MALTA AND SICILY WHICH ARE TO BE FINANCED EQUALLY BY GOI AND GOM AND HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED IN CONTEXT QUADRIPARTITE COOPERATION, INCLUDING TUNISIA AND LIBYA.

T. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR MASSA BERNUCCI INDICATED TO US HE IS HAVING TROUBLE EXPLAINING TO SOME MEMBERS NATIONALIST OPPOSITION GOI AID TO PIONEER CORPS "NOT FOR MINTOFF BUT FOR PEOPLE OF MALTA." MASSA BERNUCCI CONFIDED, IN CONTEXT HIS DESIRE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KEEP LOW PROFILE, THAT HE REFUSED ACCOMPANY PM AND MIN BUILDING AND PUBLIC WORKS SANT ON RECENT TOUR OF PIONEER CORPS PROJECTS..
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